## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00

-----240405Z 058335 /20

R 231642Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6751
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 05134

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS. GW

SUBJECT: FRG ARMS EXPORT POLICY

REF: BONN 18667 (041829Z NOV 76)

1. A SHORT EDITORIAL IN THE MARCH 23 "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" (FAZ) (INDEP) ARGUES IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR THE FRG IF THE GOVERNMENT GAVE IN TO THE CONSTANT ARMS INDUSTRY PRESSURE FOR RELAXATION OF ARMS EXPORT RESTRICTIONS. THE PAPER POINTS OUT THAT INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT CAN NOT BE BLAMED FOR WANTING TO UTILIZE ITS MILITARY/TECHNICAL CAPACITY BY EXPORTING MORE AND THAT IT IS IN A POSITION TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE CAPABILITIES OF THE EQUIPMENT PRODUCED. THE FAZ ALSO NOTES THAT THE FRG IS NOT HOOKED ON THE ARMS TRADE TO EARN FOREIGN EXCHANGE AS ARE OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. FINALLY, THE FAZ CONCLUDES THAT BONN'S FOREIGN POLICY CREDIBILITY CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD NOT RISE IF THE ARMS INDUSTRY WERE PERMITTED MORE THAN BEFORE TO SELL GOODS OUTSIDE THE WESTERN DEFENSE ALLIANCE.

2. COMMENT: A FONOFF WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER YESTERDAY THAT INDUSTRY REPS ARE CONSTANTLY CALLING HIM TO ASK HOW THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR

EXPORT LICENSES ARE PROGRESSING. HE ALSO SAID MANY OF THE APPLICATIONS CONCERN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, CONFIRMING THE LAST POINT IN THE FAZ EDITORIAL. WE NOTE TOO THAT THE MARCH 21 EDITION OF "DER SPIEGEL", IN AN ARTICLE ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, SAID THE EUROPEAN ARMS INDUSTRY WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE U.S. CLASH WITH THE FRG OVER BRAZIL AND THAT THE BRAZILIAN ARMY WAS INTERESTED IN THE LEOPARD TANK.

3. OUR SOURCE SAID HE WAS WRITING A PAPER ON FRG POLICY ON THE EXPORT OF CO-PRODUCED WEAPONS (REFTEL) FOR APPROVAL AT THE STATE SECRETARY LEVEL. HE SAID THE FONOFF WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT AND THAT IT WAS THE FRG'S INTENTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VIA THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, HOPEFULLY NEXT WEEK. STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: POLICIES, PRESS COMMENTS, ARMS PRODUCTION, EXPORT CONTROLS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES

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TAGS: MASS, GE To: STATE Type: TE

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Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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